

**TITLE OF THE INVENTION**

**STORAGE OPERATING DATA CONTROL SYSTEM**

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5 The present invention relates to an operating control system of a storage, and in particular relates to a storage operating control system having a storage operating server therein.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

10 For storage operating control methods, roughly dividing, there are two main ways. One is an "In band method", in which storage operating data, such as, structure information of the storage, maintenance information, etc., is operated, thereby to conduct the operating control, by using the same interface, through which a host computer performs read-out/write-in of data on the storage. The other one is an "Out of band method", in which the operating control is carried out through an interface, which is perfectly 15 different, physically and theoretically, from the interface, through which the read-out/write-in on the storage is conducted from the host computer.

20 In the former, there is an advantage that the storage operating control can be linked with an application(s) of the host computer easily. While in the latter, there is advantages, that the operating control does not depend upon the operating system on the host computer, and that it is possible to conduct the storage operating control at any time without preparation of an exclusive 25 storage operating agent on the host computer. Further, in the latter, there is an advantage for the host computer that a system can be assembled with no attention nor consciousness of such the storage operating control.

Fig. 2 shows one of the conventional methods, which is called by the "In band method". The host computer 101 and an external storage device 108 are connected to each other through a Fiber Channel 103, and through this interface are transferred storage data 105 and storage operating data 107. Also, in the host computer 101 is prepared a storage operating agent 201. The storage operating of the external storage device 108 carries out the control from a storage operating terminal 202 through the storage operating agent 201 on the host computer 101. The storage operating terminal 202 and the host computer 101 are connected through a LAN, in which TCP/IP 104 is used as protocol thereof.

In this method, since an application 102 and the storage operating agent 201 are operating on the same host computer 101, there is an advantage that the storage operating control can be performed in linking or cooperation with each other, depending upon the convenience of the application 201. On the contrary, it is necessary to introduce the storage operating agent 201 into each the host computer 101, therefore the storage operating agents operable upon the various operating systems of the host computers 101 must be prepared and further installed in advance, respectively. Also, the storage operating control is unavailable when the host computer 101 is not initialized or started.

Fig. 3 shows one of the conventional methods, which is called by the "Out of band method". In the external device 108 are stored storage data 105 and storage operating data 107, and it is characterized that each communicates with an outside through the respective interfaces. The storage data 105 is connected with the host computer 101 through the Fiber Channel 103. The storage operating terminal 202 is connected through the LAN to a service processor 106 for managing the storage operating data 107, thereby performing the communication therebetween.

With this method, there is an advantage that the operating control of the storage can be performed without an attention nor

consciousness of the host computer. Accordingly, no such the storage operating agent 201 is necessary, as in the "In band method", and the storage operation does not depend upon a platform of the host computer. However, since the storage operating terminal 202 5 and the host computer 101 use the interfaces, being totally different from each other, they are independent, therefore it is impossible to link or cooperate the application on the host computer 101 with the storage operation.

#### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

10 With the storage operating control according to the "In band method", there is a necessity of developing software for the storage operating agent depending upon the respective operating systems in the host computers. And further, the software for storage operating agent must be installed into the host computers, in 15 advance. Also, since the storage is managed or operated by the software for the storage operating agent on the host computer, the operation of the storage cannot be performed if the host computer is not initiated or started.

With the "Out of band method", since the storage operating 20 control is conducted by using the interface, being independent from that of the host computer, therefore, according to the conventional technology, it is impossible to link with the application of the host computer. Therefore, there is a necessity of a method, for complementing the drawbacks of both of them, each 25 other.

Further, in the conventional methods, in any one of them, the storage operating control is remote control from the storage operating terminal, therefore uncertainty is still remained in the security on the storage operation for a user of the storage.

30 As a means for covering the advantages of the "In band method" and the "Out of band method", a method is proposed for expanding

the "Out of band method". Namely, with adoption of the "Out of band method", a storage operating server is conducted from the interface for use of the storage operation, and further on the storage operating server is provided a general-purpose interface, 5 for operating the application directly, thereby enabling the host computer to control the operation of the storage. With this, it is possible to take in the advantages of the "In band method" while enjoining those of the "Out of band method" together. Further, with provision of a cut-off switch in the interface for use in 10 the storage operation data, the storage operation by a third party can be refused whenever it is necessary by initiative of the user of the storage.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Fig. 1 is a view of the structure of a storage operation 15 control system according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a view of the structure of the storage operation control system of the conventional "In band method";

Fig. 3 is a view of the structure of the storage operation control system of the conventional "Out of band method"; and

20 Fig. 4 shows an example, in which the storage operation is automatically performed during a down-operation of a host computer, linking up therewith.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

Hereinafter, embodiments according to the present invention 25 will be fully explained by referring to the attached Figs. 1 to 4.

First of all, explanation will be given on the structure of the system as a whole, by referring to Fig. 1. The Fig. 1 shows

the computer system comprising an external storage device 108. On the host computer 101, a certain application 102 is initiated or started. In the external storage device 108 are stored storage data 105 which the application(s) 102 uses, and storage operating data 107, including obstruction information and/or construction information of the external storage device 108, etc. Further, in the external storage device 108, there is installed a service processor 106 for managing storage operating data 107. The external storage device 108 and the host computer 101 are connected to each other through a Fiber Channel 103. Through this interface, the host computer 101 is able to perform read-out/write-in of the storage data 105, however unable read-out/write-in on the storage operating data 107.

The storage operating server 113 is connected to an interface 117 for use in storage operation of the external storage device. Through this interface, network communication is performed between the service processor 106 and the storage operating server 113, thereby conducting transmission of the storage operating data 107. As an interface protocol, JAVA(RMI) 109 on TCP/IP 104 is applied to.

On the storage operating server 113, a WWW server program 115 is installed. With the WWW server program 115, it is possible to carry out operations, such as reference to the storage operating data, change thereof, etc.

Also, the communication between the storage operating server 113 and the host computer 101 is conducted by using a general-purpose interface, such as the JAVA(RMI) 109 on TCP/IP 104. Therefore, it is so constructed that the communication can be made easily between the application 102 of the host computer 101 and the storage operating data 107.

With the embodiment of the Fig. 1, it is proposed a method of adopting the "Out of band method", while taking in the advantages

of the "In band method", as well. Namely, it is the method, in which the data 107 for use in storage operating can be read out and/or writer in from the host computer 101, for the purpose of linking or cooperating of the storage operation and the application 5 102 of the host computer. The storage operating server 113 is provided, and the storage operating data 107 is obtained herein from the interface 117 for use in storage operation. A storage operating data server program 114 is resided in the storage operating server 113, so as to make possible the operation of the 10 storage operating data 107 from the host computer 101. Further, installation of a WWW server program 115 into the storage operating server 113 brings the storage operating data 107 to be operated from the host computer 101, thereby enabling the storage operation 15 in the same manner as in the conventional art.

15 An embodiment, in which the operating control is performed by using this system, while linking or cooperating with the host computer but independent thereupon, by referring to Fig. 4. First of all, an order or instruction for moving a volume of the storage is issued from the application 102 on the host computer 101, after thirty (30) minutes from the start of operation thereof (Step 401). The storage operating server 113, upon receipt of this, starts a batch processing for executing the volume movement, after waiting 20 for thirty (30) minutes (Step 402). Immediately, after starting the batch processing, a report on starting of the batch processing 25 is sent back to the application on the host computer 101 (Step 403).

30 After confirmation of this response, the host computer 101 is shut down (Step 404). The movement of the volume is carried out during stoppage of the host computer 101 (Step 405). The host computer 101 is started or initialized again (Step 406), and the use of the storage device is re-started.

In this embodiment, because of circumstance of the application 102 on the host computer, change of the construction

of the storage is conducted, linking or cooperating with the storage operating control, upon a demand of movement of volume and use thereof, thereby enabling such the operation that is unable with the conventional "Out of band method". And, the control thereof 5 is able during the stoppage of the host computer 101, therefore the drawbacks in the "In band method" are also dissolved therein.

Further, with the provision of a physical and theoretical shut-off switch 116 in the interface for use in the storage operation, the storage operating control on the storage device can be refused 10 from the storage operating terminal 110, whenever it is necessary, by initiative of a user.

According to the present invention, it is possible to realize a storage operating control, with which the storage operating control can be obtained during the stoppage of the host computer, 15 when performing the storage operating control, having the both advantages of no necessity of the agent software installed on the host computer according to the "Out of band method", and also of linking or cooperating with the application on the host computer according to the "In band method", thereby being able to refuse 20 the storage operating control from a remote at any time when it is necessary by the initiative of the user thereof, with the provision of the shut-off switch for the storage operating control in the external storage device.

While we have shown and described several embodiments in 25 accordance with our invention, it should be understood that the disclosed embodiments are susceptible of changes and modifications without departing from the scope of the invention. Therefore, we do not intend to be bound by the details shown and described herein but intend to cover all such changes and modifications falling 30 within the ambit of the appended claims.